0.14.15.28

The occaſion and manner of *Mr. FRANCIS WOLLEYS* death, ſlaine by the Earle of *CHESTERFIELD* at *KENSINGTON*, *January* 17. 1659.

Written by a Gentleman of the Middle Temple to his friend in Cheſ-ſhire.

SIR,

TO give you a more exact account of this ſad diſaſter and death of Mr. *Wolley*; I hold it proper to impart to you the firſt riſe of their unhappy acquaintance; Mr. *Wolley* mounted on a ſprightly Maire (about a quarter of a year before the accident) paſſed in the ſtreets at *London*, and riding in the *Covent-Garden*, the Earle ſeeing and liking the Maire, diſpatcht a Foot-man to him, to know whether the Maire was to be ſold, or not; Mr. *Wolley* anſwered ſhe was if he might have his price, hereupon a ſecond meſſage was ſent to him to ſpeak with the Earle, which direction preſently obſerved, the Earle and he agreed of a price, eighteen pieces in gold, and immediately the Earle was owner of the Maire, and the Gentleman of the money. And having acquainted the Earle in the preſence of Maſter *Windam* his friend (now of the Middle Temple) that the Maire, before he had her, was Major *Salkills*, who liveth in St. *Martins*-Lane; and that ſhe was a gift beſtowed on him; relating likewiſe that he reſided ſometimes at the Middle Temple, and ſometimes with his father at *Hammer-ſmith*, whither he was then returning; his Lordſhip tendred Maſter *Wolley* his Coach to carry him thither, which civility refuſed, they then parted, from which time being about three moenths Maſter *Wolley* never ſaw the Earle, nor received a line or word from him, untill accidentally paſſing in the ſtreet on *Saturday*

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laſt, the Earle being in his Coach, ſeeing Maſter *Wolley*, called him to him, telling him that his Maire proved not according to his word, and therefore he required him to retake the Maire, and refund the money. To which Maſter *Wolley* replied, that he looked on that command of his Lordſhip, as neither reaſonable nor juſt, for that he never made him any ſuch promiſe, and therefore deſired his pardon, for he would not obey it in that particular. To which the Earle ſpeedily added that he ſhould expect then to hear further from him; ſo they parted at that time.

It ſeems from theſe ſparks a greater fire was quickly kindled: on *Monday* morning following the Earle did haſten to *Hammerſmith*, where lighting at the Goat he diſpatched Maſter *Philip Howard*, ſon to the Earle of *Berk-ſhire*, to enquire for Maſter *Wolley* at his fathers houſe, meeting preſently with him, he deſired him to walk up to the Inne where the Earle of *Cheſterfield* ſtayed, to which motion Maſter *Wolley* aſſented and went; but what paſſed betwixt the Earle and Maſter *Wolley* is not yet diſcovered, his Lordſhip or Maſter *Howard* beſt know. After half an houre, or thereabouts, Maſter *Wolley* returning to his Fathers Houſe, and being demanded what was the reſult and concluſion with his Lordſhip; told his father that he was preſſed to retake his Maire, but he reſolved the contrary; and ſaid that the Earl and he parted friendly; after dinner on *Monday* Maſter *Wolley* rode abroad, and pretended to viſit a Gentleman who lived not far from *Fulham*, and returned not till it began to grow dark, diſcovering no diſtemper either by his carriage or language: And in this compoſure having after Supper craved his parents bleſſing, he retyred to his Chamber, and ſo to Bed; the next morning being *Tueſday*, he roſe very early, and privately without noiſe got out of his Chamber, walking, as he was wont, towards the Stable (for ſo the Cook-maide obſerved him in his Gown) where he found his Groome. In the mean time his father having no ſuſpition of his ſons death and danger ſo neere, continued his repoſe in his bed, untill in the revolution of ſome ſecond thoughts he knockt and call'd for his ſervant to come up, and directed her to wiſh his ſonne to come to his father; who when ſhe returned told her that Mr. *Wolley* was not to be found, then ſhe was deſired to enquire for his Groome, and ſhe returned with a ſecond anſwer that ſhe could not meet with him. The afflicted parents, in their bed alarm'd with theſe confuſed circumſtances roſe ſpeedily, and in their ſo divided and diſtracted thoughts knew not where to ſeek and ſearch for their ſonne; yet in their amazements and affrights his father intreated a civil perſon who lodged in the houſe, and ſome neighbours to walk abroad and enquire after him; but no news was brought to the Doctor of his ſonne, until it was diſpatcht to him by a meſſenger ſent from Mr. *Colebies* of *Kenſington*, who told him, oh Sir your ſonne is ſlaine, and lies dead in a field below Mr. *Colebies* houſe, which ſadneſſe proved

proved too true. The Corps gored with blood fallen on the ground had received two wounds; the one on the left hand, which tore and pierced the nerves and sinews: The other passed quite thorough the body, making the orifice neer the right Pap, & came forth on his back under the plate of his left shoulder. Having now as neer as I can related the occasion and manner of his death, I shall impart to you what I observed at his Funerals, which were honoured by many Templars and Persons of quality as well as others, who with wet eyes, testified the dolour and sadnesse of their hearts for the Gentlemans violent and untimely death: but that which I conceived most observable was an elegant Oration of the preacher; *Mr. Fowler* who commended the Gentleman to the grave with a large Character, and a Catalogue of many worthy vertues, which were eminent in him when he was alive; and therefore more happily now honoured him at his death: amongst other graces and qualities he highly commended him for Piety towards God, Charity to the poore, Modesty, Chastity, Temperance and Sobriety: and it was a sincere note of his devotion; That in this Re'ncounter the Common-prayer Book was found in his pocket when he was dead, as his only best Companion to the last gasp. The preacher gave him another encomium before he suffered the dust to cover the Corps; That his lips were never accustomed or polluted with Lies, nor blasphemous and horrid Oathes. And as for obedience to his parents; That he was an unparalell'd Example, and truely as he had some advantages by his four years travel abroad, so for his six yeares Residence in the Temple he was observed to be as civil and hopeful a Student as the choicest in that Society.

FINIS.

O.14.15.29

AN EPITAPH ON Mr *FRANCIS WOLLEY*,

Of the Middle-Temple: ſlain by the Earle of *CHESTERFIELD* *January* 17th 1659.

REſt in thy Bed of Honour: till the Juſt,
And thou ſhalt riſe more bright from nobler Duſt.
Yet whil'ſt thou ſleep'ſt, how proud is winged Fame
To ſound abroad the Honour of thy Name?
Who rather did'ſt chooſe danger, or to dye,
Then breathe one Day in Branded Infamye.
Thy Cauſe ſo juſt, thy Innocent Defence
Claymes Glory as thy Due, and Recompence.
Thy Vertues are thy Heraulds and will tell,
In future Ages how Sweete *Wolley* fell.

FINIS.

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